

### **ABSTRACT**

This invention provides a process for reducing an exocyclic double bond at the 5-position of a thiazolidinedione moiety of a thiazolidinedione precursor comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a solution or suspension of the thiazolidinedione precursor in a non-ether solvent medium with a base, and
- b) combining the solution or suspension with a dithionite source.

Preferred solvent media include aqueous N,N-dimethylformamide.

Sodium dithionite is a preferred dithionite source.